

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/922,618

Applicant(s)

QUINLAN, JOSEPH

Examiner

Art Unit

John Elmore

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 4/12/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. The drawings filed on 01 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Kinnaman on 6/17/2005.

The claims have been amended as follows:

14. The program storage device of claim 4 11 in which the step of determining whether the user has general authority to perform the requested mount operation comprises the step of determining whether the user has general superuser authority.

15. The program storage device of claim 4 11 in which the step of determining whether the user has general authority to perform the requested mount operation comprises the step of determining whether the user has superuser authority for mount operations.

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the previous office action, Applicant has amended claims 1, 6 and 11, and added claims 16-21. Claims 1-21 have been examined.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 1-21 are allowed.**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1, 6 and 11, it is well known in the art that mount and unmount operations for computer file systems normally require superuser (administrator) authority. The closest prior art, Lee ("How to Mount/Unmount for Users," *Linux Gazette*, May 1997), teaches that Linux users lacking superuser authority are granted the privilege to perform mount and unmount operations for particular devices when permission is so designated in the /etc/fstab configuration file for any such devices. But Lee's teaching provides that either no user has authority to perform the operations, with the superuser retaining exclusive authority, or that all users have such authority; that is, Lee does not explain a subset of users, less than the whole, having mount/unmount authority.

Providing mount/unmount authority to a subset of users, as opposed to all users, is not an obvious modification of the prior art because such a modification requires the addition of a nontrivial infrastructure for tracking the authority of each user in relation to

each device in the file system rather than merely setting a flag for each device in the /etc/fstab file.

Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 16-17, 18-19 and 20-21 are allowed by virtue of their dependence on claims 1, 6, 11, 1, 6 and 11, respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

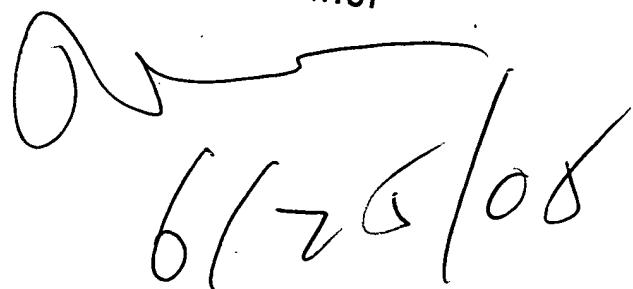
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Elmore whose telephone number is 571-272-4224. The examiner can normally be reached on M 10-8, T-Th 9-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Morse can be reached on 571-272-3838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JE

David Y. Jung
Primary Examiner



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Y. Jung" above a date. The date is written in a cursive style as "6/26/08".